THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE COVNTY OF HERTFORD to His Majesty.

WITH HIS MAIESTIES Gratious answer *thereunto.*

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WITH

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Gracious answer

thereunto.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY,

The humble Petition of Your Majesties Subjects within Your County of HERTFORD.

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

YOur Majesties most Loyall Subjects and Petitioners, giving your Majesty most humble thankes for the many good Lawes you have lately granted, and also for your gratious profession to maintaine the Protestant Religion; and seriously considering the great distractions and distempers of this your Kingdome, and the danger wherein it (with your own Royall Person) now standeth, as also being very sensible of the great effusion of blood lately made betwixt your Majesties owne Subjects, and of the great Calamities

likely to ensue upon this unnaturall and civill Warre, unlesse by your Sacred Majesties Clemency and mercy it be forthwith stayed, your Subjects being in short time likely to fall into great misery and want, as well by reason of the decay of Trading, as also by the violence and rapine of wicked and dissolute Multitudes, which hope to raise themselves by the ruine of your Majesties good Subjects.

Therefore your Majesties Subjects and Petitioners doe in all humility addresse themselves unto your Royall Majesty, earnestly desiring that all hostility may cease, and that some meanes of Accommodation and Peace may be obtained, whereby Gods honour, and the true Protestant Religion may be maintained, your Majesties sacred Person, Honour and Estate preserved, and your Parliament's just Priviledges, with the Lawes of this your Realme, upheld and put in execution, that so your People being freed from their feares, and secured in their Estates, may with hand and heart testifie their obedience both to God and their King.

And Your Subjects shall dayly pray for
Your Majesties long and happy
Reigne over us.

His

HIS MAJESTY HATH

Expresly Commanded me to give this

His Answer to this

PETITION.

HIS *Majesty* gratiously accepts the acknowledgement of the Petitioners, and is very glad, that in a County, so neere the violence which hath sought to oppresse His *Majesty*, and where so great industry hath been used to corrupt His good Subjects, and to infuse into them thoughts and Resolutions of Disloyalty against Him, there is yet so gratefull a sense of His *Majesties* Justice, and so true a sense of the Calamities of the Kingdome. And His *Majesty* assures the Petitioners, that He so farre concurres with them in all their Requests, that they doe not more desire to receive, then His *Majesty* doth to grant all they aske of him.

Of the present Distractions and Distempers, in which the Petitioners expresse an honest and Loyall care of the safety of His *Majesties* Person;

(a thing so farre from being of late regarded, that God only hath preserved Him from being destroyed by the bloody hands of Rebells,) His *Majesty* doubts not but the Petitioners know from what fountain they have sprung, and by the grievances and pressures exercised upon their own County, in which His *Majesty* cannot be suspected to have the least hand, so much as by Accident, will quickly discerne, that when that part of the Law which should defend His *Majesty* is so easily Mastered, and troden downe, the other part which should secure His Subjects will insensibly moulder away, and give them up to the same violence; And that when they shall too inconsiderately look on upon the publique sufferings, they doe but invite prosperous ill Instruments to bring the misery home to their own Doores.

That all Hostility may cease, cease for ever, and a blessed and happy Accommodation and Peace be made, that Gods Honour, and the Protestant Religion may be maintained, that the just Priviledges of Parliament, and the Lawes of the Land may be upheld and put in Execution, that so His good People may be freed from their feares, and secured in their Estates, is not, cannot

 be

be more the wiſh and prayer of the Petitioners, then it is the earneſt and inceſſant Endevour of His *Majeſty*. And when the Petitioners remember, that His *Majeſties* compaſsion of the miſeries of a civill-Warre, kept Him ſo long from endeavouring to raiſe an Army, that He was almoſt ſwallowed up by a deſperate Rebellion, and nothing but the immediate hand of God could have ſupplyed Him with men, Armes, or Mony for His defence; and when they conſider the ſtrange Licence given or countenanced in the exerciſe of Religiō, the ſcorn & contempt the very Proteſtant Religion it ſelfe ſuffers by *Browniſts*, *Anabaptiſts*, & *Sectaries*, (who in truth have deſtroyed the civill Peace too.) when they look upon the ſtrange Invaſion upon the freedome and Priviledge of Parliament, by the violence and faction of ſuch Men, and ſee the Lawes of the Land with a loud voyce vilifyed and trampled upon, they muſt confeſſe, 'tis no more in His *Majeſties* power to ſatiſfy the Petitioners in their moſt juſt deſires, then to preſerve His Own Perſon, Honour and Eſtate, from that Fury which threatens that, and all the reſt, and that what the Petitioners now aske, is the only Argument of His Majeſties taking up juſt, neceſſary, and defenſive Armes.

But

But if the Petitioners shall joyne with His Majestie, and assist Him to assist them, If they shall resolve to defend the knowyn Lawes of the Land (as the only excellent Rule) and not to submit to any extravagant Arbitrary power whatsoever. If they shall set a true prize upon their Religion, (sealed with the blood of so many glorious Martyrs,) and on the behalfe of it, protest against all the distempers of *Brownists*, *Anabaptists*, and *Sectaries*; If they shall help His Majesty to reduce the whole Fabrick of Church and State, according to the modell of *Queen Elizabeths* time, (so long and seriously proposed by His *Majesty*) in which the foundations were laid of all that happinesse and glory, which the whole Nation injoyed so many yeares after, and to which His Majesty hath made so great an Addition of Excellent Lawes: His Majesty doubts not that any Faction shall prevaile against them, but that other Counties following the example of the Petitioners, in a short time His Majesty, the Petitioners, and the whole Kingdome, will find the accomplishment of all that is desired by this Petition.

FALKLAND.